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CABLE

MARVEL

157

CABLE

PAST FEARS
CHAPTER 3

PULLED FROM HIS OWN ERA AND RAISED IN A FAR-FLUNG FUTURE, NATHAN SUMMERS HAS TRAVERSED TIME IN AN EFFORT TO SAVE HUMAN AND MUTANT ALIKE. HE IS THE LINK BETWEEN THE PAST, THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE. HE IS KNOWN BY MANY NAMES, BUT TO MOST HE IS SIMPLY THE MAN CALLED…

CABLE

AFTER REUNITING WITH HIS ESTRANGED DAUGHTER, HOPE, CABLE SET OUT TO FIGHT A TECHNO-ORGANIC MONSTER THAT'S BEEN TORMENTING HIM FOR YEARS. DURING THE CONFLICT, THE MONSTER DUG INTO CABLE'S MIND, FORCING HIM TO CONFRONT THEIR LONG AND SORDID HISTORY. FIRST, REVISITING THEIR CONFLICT DURING THE MESSIAH WAR, THE MONSTER TRIED TO STEAL YOUNG HOPE AWAY FROM CABLE. THEY ONLY NARROWLY ESCAPED…

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HELL'S KITCHEN, NEW YORK CITY. A FEW YEARS AGO.*

*THIS ISSUE TAKES PLACE AFTER *CABLE (1993) #54!* --DS

EVERYONE IS GIVEN A FAMILY AT BIRTH.

CABLE'S SAFE HOUSE.

THEY ARE IRREVOCABLY PART OF YOU, MADE FROM THE SAME GENETIC INFORMATION.

BLOOD IS BLOOD. FAMILY IS FAMILY.

THAT'S ONE THING THAT YOU CAN'T ESCAPE.

BUT SOMETIMES YOU FIND FAMILY ALONG THE WAY.

AND SOMETIMES THEY FIND YOU.

MY HALF-BROTHER *NATE GREY.* GENETICALLY ENGINEERED BY MISTER SINISTER. HE'S ME FROM AN ALTERNATE REALITY.

HE CAME FOR A REASON. TO TELL ME SOMETHING.

HIS HEART RATE IS ERRATIC. HIS VITALS ARE ALL OVER THE PLACE.

I'VE TRIED READING HIS MIND, BUT IT'S A MESS. THE ONLY CONSTANT IS *FEAR.*

HE SHARES MY GENETIC SIGNATURE AND MY MUTANT ABILITIES.

WHAT HE DOESN'T SHARE IS MY TECHNO-ORGANIC VIRUS.

CABLE, I'VE WARNED YOU ABOUT THIS TIME-LOST BOY. YOU SHOULD HAVE KILLED HIM WHEN YOU HAD THE CHANCE.*

Danger

*SEE *CABLE (1993) #30* --DS

HE'S A GOD WHO SHOULDN'T KNOW FEAR...

DO YOU HEAR ME, ASKANI'SON? HE IS IMPEDING YOUR DESTINY.

SHUT UP AND FINISH MIXING THE PALLIATING SALVE, *BLAQUESMITH.*

HE'S NOT MY ENEMY. HE'S *FAMILY.*

...BUT HE'S ALSO A CONFUSED KID.

AND I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT THAT FEELS LIKE.

NOT EVERYONE WHO SHARES YOUR GENETIC CODE IS FAMILY.

THIS COULD BE A WORM DANGLING ON A HOOK FROM *APOCALYPSE.*

IT'S NOT. I KNOW WHAT DID THIS.

ARE YOU DONE MIXING YET?

I NEED YOU TO PULL THROUGH, NATE.

...

KRAK

RUN! IT'S COMING FOR YOU!!!

CALM DOWN. WE'RE SAFE HERE.

BEHIND YOU!

WHICH OF YOU IS REAL...

...AND WHICH IS THE COPY?

STAY BACK! YOU'RE TOO WEAK!

THIS THING WAS COMING FOR YOU!

I TRIED TO WARN YOU AND FAILED.

YOU DON'T DESERVE A BROTHER.

AGHHH!

ZCHOOM

I WAS THERE WHEN YOU TWO FIRST MET. I HOPED YOU'D END HIM.

ZCHOOM

BUT YOU WANTED A NEW FRIEND. SOMEONE TO PLAY WITH.

ZCHOOM

PART OF YOU KNEW I WOULD COME.

ALL THESE YEARS...

...YOU HAVEN'T LEARNED. YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED!

METUS, PLEASE LISTEN TO--

FWAASH

STUPID KID. YOU'RE GONNA KILL YOURSELF.

I JUST... SAVED YOUR LIFE.

WE GOTTA GET YOU OUT OF HERE. NOW.

WE HAVE TO... FINISH... THIS.

TIMESLIDE BY TWO.

NO! WAIT!

STAB HIS EYES...

WHAT AM I DOING WITH MY LIFE?

SOMEWHERE, THE END OF TIME.

OH, GREAT. THERE'S MORE.

AS THE OLD ASKANI PROVERB GOES, "WHATEVER IS...IS."

MY SCANS TELL ME THEY ARE GENETICALLY IDENTICAL TO US.

WHERE ARE WE? WHO ARE THESE GUYS?

WE'RE IN ONE OF MY SAFE HOUSES AND THESE GUYS ARE JUST LIKE YOU...DIFFERENT VERSIONS OF ME FROM OTHER TIMELINES.

WE ARRIVED LIKE WE WERE BORN, AS ONE.

WHAT TWINKLE TOES HERE'S TRYING TO SAY IS WE ARRIVED WITHIN MILLISECONDS OF EACH OTHER.

WE ALL SENSED THE SAME THREAT AND FOLLOWED IT HERE.

CABLE, IT'S HERE. I'M BETTING SOMEONE ISN'T WHO THEY SAY THEY ARE.

I'LL DIG INTO THEIR MINDS. WE GOTTA FIND THE IMPOSTER!

EASY, NATE...

THERE IS NO NEED FOR SECRET TELEPATHIC COMMUNICATION...

I ASSURE YOU, WE ARE ALL CHILDREN OF THE ATOM.

THERE'S TOO MANY OF US, KID. YOU'LL FLOOD YOUR MIND!

HE'S RIGHT. WE SHARE THE SAME BIOSIGNATURE AND PSIONIC ABILITY.

NO, LET HIM...

STOP, STOP, STOP!

I... KNOW...

...ONE OF YOU...HAS TO BE...THAT *MONSTER.*

MONSTER?! WHAT'S HE BABBLING ABOUT?

SOMETHING FOLLOWED US HERE. A DANGEROUS SHAPE-SHIFTER. WE CAN'T LEAVE UNTIL WE FIND IT.

AHH, SO THE UNSEEN THREAT REVEALS ITSELF.

WITHOUT THE ABILITY TO SEARCH EACH OTHER'S MINDS, HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO FIND THIS THING?

IT CAN'T HIDE FOREVER. IT WON'T.

I REFUSE TO WAIT. I'M LEAVING.

HEY, UGLY, YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE. NONE OF US ARE.

A PREDATOR REQUIRES PREY. IF WE LEAVE--

NO ONE LEAVES UNTIL WE FIGURE THIS OUT. ALL OF YOU, HAND OVER YOUR TIME MACHINES.

GIVE THEM TO ME. I'LL LOOK AFTER THEM.

I DON'T TRUST YOU EITHER. WE LEAVE THEM WHERE WE CAN *ALL SEE THEM.*

IN PLAIN SIGHT.

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS TELLS ME THIS IS A HORRIBLE PLAN.

THIS WILL ONLY END IN DEATH.

WE DON'T HAVE A CHOICE. NOT UNTIL THINGS BECOME MORE CLEAR.

SO WHAT'S THE PLAN NOW?

I NEED TIME TO SEARCH MY OWN MIND.

I GUESS WE'RE AT A STANDSTILL.

SO WE SIT HERE AND WAIT.

LATER.

YOU KNOW WHAT? I'M TIRED OF THIS @#$%!

THAT HOTHEAD SEEMED TO KNOW A LOT ABOUT THIS MONSTER.

MAYBE *HE'S* THE ONE!

THIS ISN'T HOW WE'RE GOING TO SOLVE THIS!

WE NEED TO ***WORK TOGETHER.***

WORKING IN TANDEM REQUIRES TRUST.

YOU HAVEN'T EARNED MINE.

THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT IT WANTS! WE'RE PLAYING RIGHT INTO ITS HANDS.

SEEMS LIKE WE'RE ALL A LITTLE BEAT.

PERHAPS SOME REST WOULD EASE OUR SPIRITS.

FINE. WE NEED TO ***KEEP WATCH*** IN TEAMS OF TWO. THE SHAMAN AND I WILL GO FIRST. HE'S THE ONLY ONE I TRUST.

WAKE ME UP WHEN IT'S MY TURN.

I CAN FEEL THE ELECTRICITY *BUZZING.* IT WASN'T LIKE THIS WHEN WE GOT HERE.

STRANGE WHAT *ISOLATION* DOES TO THE MIND.

THE OUTSIDE REFLECTS WHAT'S INSIDE. WE'RE STUCK HERE UNTIL WE FIND THE INTERLOPER.

YOU ASK ME? IT'S THE KID.

WHAT OF THE MERC?

ANALYSIS TELLS ME NO. HE WAS SOUND ASLEEP WHEN I CHECKED ON HIM.

ELSEWHERE.

YOU LOOK AS BAD AS I DO. WHAT'S GOING ON?

BEEN STRAINING TO KEEP MY VIRUS UNDER CONTROL. IT DOESN'T LIKE WHEN *METUS* IS AROUND.

SO THE MONSTER HAS A NAME. YOU KNOW MORE THAN YOU LET ON.

KEEP QUIET... SOMEONE COULD BE LISTENING.

OPEN YOUR EYES, *METAL BOY.*

YOU GOTTA LOOK WHERE YOU'RE GOING!

'CAUSE IT'S A LOOOONG WAY DOWN!

YOU CAN DO IT, *DAYSPRING.* IT'S NOT AS SCARY AS IT LOOKS FROM UP HERE.

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

I'LL DO IT! JUST LET ME CATCH MY BREATH.

CATCH IT ON *THE WAY DOWN!*

NOOO-- AHHHH!

ARGHH!

ARGGHHHH!

SPLASH

HOLY @#$%.

DON'T GET TOO CLOSE.

WASN'T GOING TO.

IT WAS SEVERED AT THE ROTATOR CUFF. LOOKS LIKE THE ONLY PART OF HIS BODY THAT ***WASN'T*** INFECTED BY THE VIRUS.

WE NEVER SHOULD HAVE LEFT HIM ALONE.

IT WAS HIS CHOICE. HE KNEW THE RISK.

KNEW THE RISK? CALCULATIONS TELL ME THIS IS YOUR FAULT. YOU'RE THE ONES THAT BROUGHT THIS MONSTER HERE.

GET OUTTA MY FACE BEFORE I--

BEFORE YOU WHAT, COOL GUY? ***OVERLOAD AGAIN?***

DON'T--

BOOM

THAT'S ENOUGH! ALL OF YOU!

METUS WANTS US TO TURN ON EACH OTHER. WE CAN'T GIVE IN. WE ALREADY LOST ONE AND I WON'T HAVE ANOTHER DEATH ON MY CONSCIENCE.

IN THE MAIN ROOM. ***NOW.***

WE'RE ALL THE SAME. ALL OF US SHOULD BE TELEKINETIC. I KNOW *THE MONSTER ISN'T.* SO WE'LL PERFORM A SIMPLE TEST.

ONE AT A TIME. EACH OF US WILL TELEKINETICALLY LIFT THIS CHAIR. IF YOU CAN'T, WELL...

X-MAN, YOU'RE UP.

HAPPY?

DONE. BUT I HAVE A QUERY. WHY ARE *YOU* GIVING THE ORDERS?

THIS ONLY LEAVES ONE OF US...

YOU ARE NOT OF OUR KIND.

MY SYSTEMS TELL ME I SHOULD BLOW A HOLE THROUGH YOUR HEAD RIGHT NOW.

LET HIM DO THE TEST. WE OWE HIM THAT MUCH.

YOUR ARM REVEALS YOUR TRUE NATURE. *YOU* ARE THE MONSTER!

HNN... IT'S...NOT... ME...

IT'S NEAR...

HE'S DOING THE TEST. IT CAN'T--

WHAT THE--?

HURRRGH!

HELLLLP MEEEE!

IT'S ABSORBING OUR TECHNO-ORGANIC TISSUE. DON'T LET IT TOUCH YOU!

I'M SORRY I DOUBTED YOU. WE WILL END THIS AS ONE!

STAY CLOSE AND FOLLOW MY ORDERS.

WE HAVE TO FOCUS OUR COMBINED ENERGIES.

LOOK OUT!

WHATEVER IS...IS.

I'M SORRY MY FRIENDS. I WILL SEE YOU... IN TIME.

TWO LOST BROTHERS.

ALL ALONE.

MY BODY HUNGERS, AND SO IT FEEDS.

HUURGH!

LOOK AT WHAT YOU'VE MADE!

I AM YOUR FEARS, PAST AND PRESENT.

FWAASH

WE'VE GOT TO DESTROY THIS THING!

IT'S ABSORBED TOO MUCH. FALL BACK!

NATE, WATCH OUT!

I'M GONNA FINISH THIS!

NO!

STUPID KID! YOU'LL KILL ALL OF US.

I'VE ALMOST...GOT IT...ONE MORE...

DO IT... DO WHAT... YOUR COPY... NEVER COULD.

I CAN'T LET YOU--

GET OUT OF THE WAY!

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND.

LOOK AT IT. IT'S DYING. WE WON'T GET ANOTHER CHANCE LIKE THIS!

IT'S GETTING AWAY! WHAT THE HELL'S THE MATTER WITH YOU?!

ONE MORE BLAST AND YOU'D BE DEAD.

YOU'RE HIDING SOMETHING...I CAN SENSE IT NOW THAT THE OTHERS ARE GONE.

IT DOESN'T CONCERN YOU.

MY GOD... YOU'VE CARRIED THIS WITH YOU FOR SO LONG.

WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SOMETHING?

YOU'VE CREATED A MONSTER AND IT WILL DESTROY YOU.

IF I'D KNOWN THE TRUTH, I--

IT WOULDN'T HAVE MATTERED.

EVENTUALLY YOU HAVE TO FIX THIS MESS. BEFORE IT CONSUMES YOU AND THE PEOPLE YOU LOVE.

METUS WON'T STOP. NOT AFTER WHAT I JUST SAW. HATRED IS PART OF HIM. IT HAS BEEN SINCE YOU--

I KNOW.

WE NEED TO FIND A WAY OUT OF HERE.

I NICKED A TIME MACHINE OFF THE TABLE.

THERE'S HOPE FOR YOU YET.

THEN WE LEAVE METUS HERE. SHOW HIM WHAT TRUE ISOLATION FEELS LIKE.

YOU KNOW THAT WON'T LAST FOREVER...

TIMESLIDE BY TWO.

TO BE CONTINUED!

CABLE

NEXT MONTH...

#158: TOGETHER AGAIN WITH X-FORCE!

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO
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WEAPON X #18
NEXT WEEK

X-MEN BLUE #28
IN TWO WEEKS

WEAPON X #19
IN THREE WEEKS

ZONE